

**Important factors to consider when planting urban trees:**

- Plant trees on the west and east sides of buildings to reduce energy cost. Why east and west? In the summer most solar energy hits east and west walls of buildings. In the winter most solar energy is received on the south wall. By avoiding planting trees in the south, you will reduce energy costs and allow natural heat to pass into the home during wintertime.
- While trees provide huge environmental benefits, there are some trees that contribute negatively. Biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOC) can be emitted by some species of trees, and contribute to the formation of ozone. The following trees emit the highest amount of BVOC, and should be planted with caution:
  - Eucalyptus, Sweetgum (*Liquidambar*), Black gum (*Nyssa*), Beefwood (*Casuarina*), Sycamore (*Platanus*), Poplar (*Populus*), Black locust (*Robinia*).

However, trees should not be labeled as polluters because their total benefits on air quality and emission reductions far outweigh the possible consequences of BVOC emissions on ozone concentration. In fact, there are many trees that do not emit BVOCs, such as the common crapemyrtle, raywood ash, coast redwood, white mulberry, cherry plum, and Japanese Flowering tree.